

Stream Team Annual Report

2012

promoting citizen
awareness and involvement
in river and stream conservation



"The Lendgarry Tire" of Joachim Creek in Jefferson County met its match when Team 4660 enlisted the help of a local towing company.

A Summary of Stream Team Activities

It is once again time to look back at the past year and marvel at the wonderful accomplishments of our many Stream Teams. 2012 brought many challenges to our volunteers with record-setting drought conditions during most of the year. River conditions were often unfavorable for many of the usual Stream Team activities, but never did these hard-working volunteers cease to amaze us with their dedication and enthusiasm. More trash was found by fewer people, which is typical of a drought year. While fewer people get out in the hot weather, normally hard to reach trash is more attainable in the low water conditions. Teams still managed to log more than **191,000 hours** of volunteer time and 191 new Teams were formed. 2012 saw a total of 4,707 Teams, of which 3,843 are still active! As further proof that our Teams love working together, four new Stream Team Associations formed last year. Here's a quick look at some of the activity totals from 2012:

- ◆ 711 storm drains were stenciled or marked.
- ◆ 115 habitat improvement projects were completed.
- ◆ Over \$4.2 million worth of volunteer labor was dedicated to our streams.
- ◆ Over 350,000 bags provided by the Stash Your Trash Program were used in litter pickups, by people floating on streams, and during related events.

With over 76,800 volunteers, it is apparent that Missouri citizens have flowing water on their minds and in their hearts. These thousands of individuals are all different, but are tied by the same common thread . . . our beautiful streams!



Students from the Rockwood Center for Creative Learning (Team 2960) worked diligently "picking bugs" at Kiefer Creek in St. Louis.



Stream Team is sponsored by:
Missouri Department of Conservation
Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Conservation Federation of Missouri

- ◆ 689 tons of trash were removed from Missouri's rivers and streams.
- ◆ 1,211 water quality monitoring trips were completed.
- ◆ 17,297 trees were planted.

Dedication & Enthusiasm

Water Quality Monitoring

Water Quality Monitoring continues to be one of the most popular Stream Team activities. This portion of the Stream Team Program provides volunteers the opportunity to monitor their adopted stream and collect crucial baseline data. Monitoring a stream site is a real contribution by providing valuable information about the health and condition of our streams across the state!



Photo by Jon Rapp

Just one of our many active volunteer groups, a crew from Mid-Missouri Trout Unlimited (Team 327) regularly monitors the Little Piney.

2012 did see a slight decline in the number of workshop attendees. However, this is not surprising as we continue to see the impacts of adjustments made in 2009 that established new requirements to advance through the training levels. Last year, 354 volunteers attended five levels of training across the state.

While there was also a slight decline in the number of individuals attending the more advanced workshops in 2012, we have seen an increase in the overall participation rate as well as the quality

of the data submitted. 4,406 Volunteer Water Quality Monitors reported 1,211 sampling events in 2012. This is particularly impressive considering last year's drought conditions that made it very challenging to get out and sample.

Water Quality Monitoring Workshops	Number of Workshops	Number of Volunteers Trained
Introductory	9	212
Level 1	6	68
Level 2	4	27
Level 3	5	5
VWQM Validation	5	23
EPT	1	19
Total	31	354

Two Cooperative Stream Investigation (CSI) projects finished up in 2012. The projects on Shoal Creek in Barry County and on Watkins Creek in St. Louis County both provided valuable information to the Department of Natural Resources about these watersheds. Contact us if you would like more information about CSI.

Also in 2012, staff and volunteers had the opportunity to attend and present at the National Water Quality Monitoring Conference in Portland, Oregon. There were lots of opportunities for networking and the exchange of ideas and information. Presentations were given by staff on the new training requirements, and volunteers spoke about generating a watershed report based on their sampling. This presentation described the design, results, and publication of a study conducted by Stream Team 2760. Conference attendees

were interested to see the level of initiative taken by a group of volunteers. The study, which includes monthly monitoring at seven sites, is ongoing.

Stream Team Awards

Every year the Stream Team program recognizes an outstanding individual or Team from the three regions of the state, as well as a statewide Water Quality Monitoring Volunteer with a Stream Team Ambassador Award. The Ambassador Award recognizes accomplishments in education, stewardship, and advocacy, the Program's three primary goals. Last year an award was also given for outstanding work on a CSI Special Water Quality Monitoring Project. The 2012 recipients were:

Stream Team Ambassador Awards

- **Billy Backues**
Stream Team 4193—Missouri Master Naturalists Lake Ozark Area Chapter
- **Sam Allison**
Stream Team 4169—Big River Baggers
Stream Team 4520—Four Rivers Stream Team Association
- **Stuart Caswell**
Stream Team 2264—Brush Creek Mid-Shed Project
Stream Team 3949—Prairie Creek Stream Team
Stream Team 4503—Platte River Rats
- **John Rothgeb**
Stream Team 2958—Missouri Master Naturalists Ozark Chapter
Stream Team 3798—White River Hills Stream Team Association
- **Don Pierpont**
Stream Team 2898—Wheaton School FFA



Before he passed away, Kenyon Greene (Team 3949) sent us this wonderful photo of his favorite stream: Prairie Creek in Platte County.

2012 Fast Facts

During 2012, Stream Teams have . . .

- ◆ collected **689** tons of trash
- ◆ planted **17,297** trees
- ◆ stenciled **711** storm drains
- ◆ conducted **1,211** water monitoring trips
- ◆ given **64** presentations to other groups
- ◆ completed **133** educational events
- ◆ reported **191,441** total volunteer hours

Respect

Activity	Participants	Hours	Units	Value*
Adopt-An-Access	12	27	10 agreements	\$597.78
Advocacy	85	599	80 events	\$13,261.86
Articles Written (newspaper, newsletter, etc.)	34	246	87 articles	\$5,446.44
Association Activities	707	2,662	258 events	\$58,936.68
Award Winners	64	210	11 awards	\$4,649.40
Display at Fairs, etc.	307	1,508	20 events	\$33,387.12
Educational Projects	1,372	23,747	133 events	\$525,758.58
Forestkeepers (Forest Monitoring)	3	14	2 trips	\$309.96
Grant Projects	13	42	3 projects	\$929.88
Habitat Improvement	707	1,894	115 projects	\$41,933.16
Inventory	25	25	1 inventory	\$553.50
Letters (written in support of ST issue)	36	43	43 letters	\$952.02
Litter Pickups	24,207	136,518	689 tons of trash	\$3,020,648.76
Media Contacts	36	120	29 interviews	\$4,516.56
Meetings (held or attended)	1,034	1,785	1,023 attendees	\$39,519.90
Mentoring	4	4	5 projects	\$88.56
Monofilament Recycling Project	16	48	68 ounces	\$1,062.72
Other Miscellaneous Projects**	239	1,903	88 projects	\$42,132.42
Planted Trees	598	2,832	17,297 trees	\$62,700.48
Pre-activity Planning	530	2,028	427 projects	\$44,899.92
Photo Point Monitoring	15	21	80 photos	\$464.94
Presentations to Other Groups	321	1,135	64 presentations	\$25,128.90
Rain Garden/Barrel or Green Roof	11	51	5 projects	\$1,129.14
Recruitment (new members)	110	132	114 people	\$2,922.48
River Observation (possible pollution event)	12	84	1 project	\$1,859.76
Stream Access Maintenance	18	83	12 projects	\$1,837.62
Storm Drain Stenciling	272	1,076	711 drains	\$23,822.64
Streambank Stabilization Projects	16	377	6 projects	\$8,346.78
Watershed Mapping	3	48	1 trip	\$1,062.72
Workshops (attended or conducted)	417	3,505	425 attendees	\$77,600.70
Water Quality Monitoring	4,406	8,616	1,211 trips	\$190,758.24
Zebra Mussel Monitoring	42	58	20 trips	\$1,284.12
Totals	35,672	191,441		\$4,238,503.74

*\$22.14/hour is the current national wage rate for the estimated value of volunteer time (U.S. Dept. of Labor).

**Includes projects like website development, newsletters, scout programs, fund-raising, etc.

Painted by Dennis J. Murphy



The Columbia Crawdads (Team 3517) used artistic inspiration to spread the message about stormwater impacts to water quality.

Stash Your Trash

Designed to target trash on Missouri streams by providing trash bags to float outfitters, Stash Your Trash has become a vital program. In 2012, 154 float outfitters throughout the state participated in the Stash Your Trash Program, 100 of which advertised discounts to Stream Teams in the Stream Team Float Outfitters Discount Directory.

Nearly 350,000 red mesh bags were provided to livery business owners to distribute to the public, preventing countless tons of trash from entering Missouri's recreational waterways. Over 30,000 red and green mesh bags and 4,300 blue poly bags were provided to Stream Teams for their cleanup efforts. Since 1997, over 4,646,000 bags have

been provided to outfitters!

Over
\$4.2
million!

23-year Fast Facts

Since 1989, Stream Teams have . . .

- ♣ collected **9,617** tons of trash
- ♣ planted **259,807** trees
- ♣ stenciled **14,093** storm drains
- ♣ conducted **24,635** water monitoring trips
- ♣ given **2,820** presentations to other groups
- ♣ completed **4,161** educational events
- ♣ reported **2,174,332** total volunteer hours



Missouri River Relief volunteers (Team 1875) were justifiably proud of their huge haul during the Big Muddy Clean Sweep in Kansas City.

Accomplishment

What's To Come . . .

2013 has all but come and gone and Teams and Program staff have been keeping busy. Staff continued work to update our database system and are pleased that all of the new data reporting forms have officially been rolled out for Teams to use. We were also excited to see Stream Team license plates officially hit the roads in January of this year. If you have not already purchased one there is no better time than the present to show your support for our water resources.

And, as always, we are trying to keep up with the interests of our devoted volunteers with workshops and regional meetings.

The Stream Team Program will be celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2014 and staff are already brainstorming ideas on how to celebrate this important milestone. Keep a watch out as we get closer to 2014 for more information. Thank you for all that you do and we will see you on the river!



◆ Education ◆ Stewardship ◆ Advocacy ◆

Stream Team Staff



Back row: Sherry Fischer (MDC), Randy Sarver (DNR), Susan Higgins (DNR), Naomi Gebo (MDC), Karen Westin (DNR), Mark Van Patten (MDC).

Front row: Kat Lackman (MDC), Amy Meier (MDC), April Perry (MDC), Chris Riggert (MDC).

Questions? Please contact us at:

1-800-781-1989 (voice mail)
streamteam@mdc.mo.gov
streamteam@dnr.mo.gov
www.mostreamteam.org
www.facebook.com/mostreamteams



The Atchison X-Stream Team (Team 3405) stenciled 75 storm drains during their city-wide cleanup event.



The Big River Baggers (Team 4169) leave no trash behind—even if it's too big to fit in a bag!



Junior Rangers from the Wildlife Refuge Center (Team 4550) in St. Louis examined mussel shells collected from the Meramec River.



A Big Piney River volunteer (Team 4623) rolled this skidder tire all the way from Mason Bridge to the USFS Roby fire tower yard.